



# KEEP WIRE

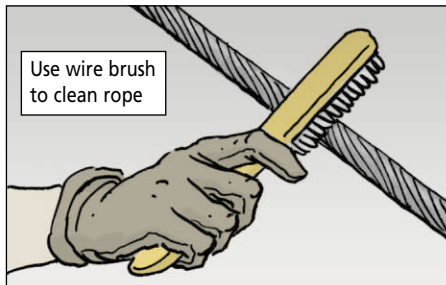
**W**ire rope hates four-letter words: dust, grit, rain, snow, and rust to name a few. These are the elements that shorten wire rope life.

Wire rope loves some longer words. Its favorites are preventive and maintenance. Try some on the wire rope on your equipment winches after a muddy or dirty operation, or whenever you think it's needed.

But, before you do any PM, be sure to put on leather gloves. They'll protect your hands from any broken strands or wires.

## Clean

Unreel the wire rope and stretch it out straight on a clean surface, like a paved motor pool. Use a wire brush, like the one from your No. 1 Common shop sets, to remove old lube, dirt and corrosion. Clean the entire cable. Grit and corrosion get buried among strands.



# ROPE CLEAN AND LUBED

## Inspect

While you're cleaning, look for broken wires, kinks and other damage. Replace the cable if you find kinks. Broken wires KO the cable, too. See your vehicle TM for inspecting details. FM-25, *Rigging Techniques, Procedures and Applications* and TB 43-0142, *Safety Inspection and Testing of Lifting Devices* has more good info.

## Lube

Lube the wire rope according to the lubrication instructions for your equipment. There are some other things you can do to keep the rope mission-ready.

If the cable gets lots of use, coat it with clean OE-HDO 30 engine oil. Stay away from used oil. It has acid in it that weakens rope strands.

In dry, dusty areas, the cable doesn't need oil. In fact, oil just collects more dust and dirt.

If the wire rope isn't used much, or if conditions are damp or salty, give it extra protection with MIL-G-18458 wire rope grease. Get a 35-lb can with NSN 9150-00-530-6814.

